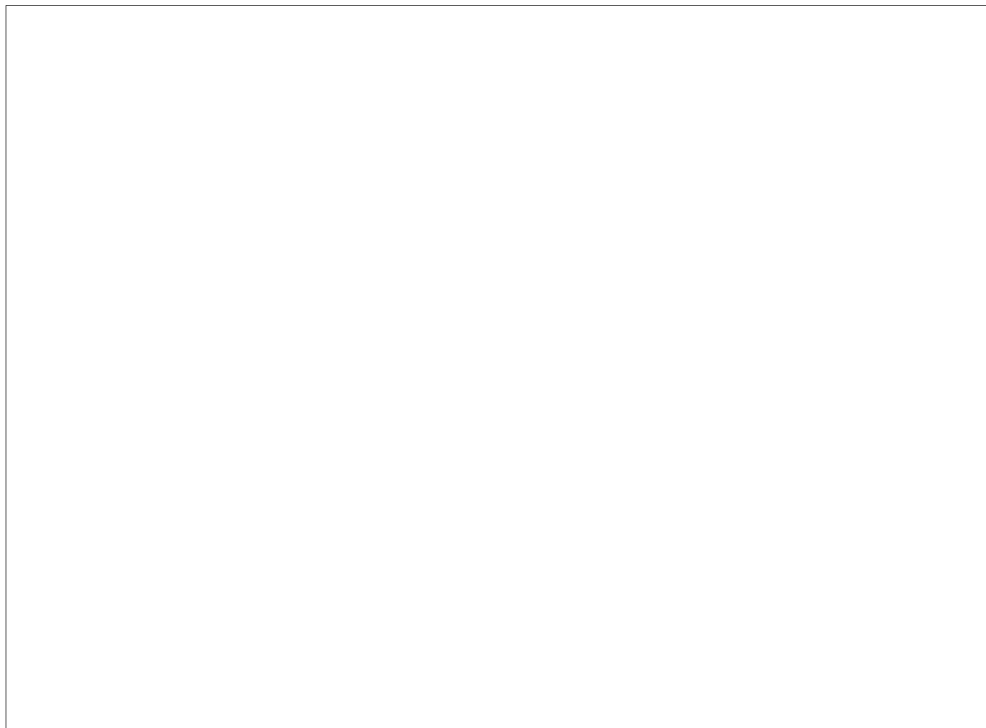


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5 June 1967 25X1

DCI BRIEFING

THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION

- I. Available evidence indicates that the real fighting began this morning when Israel launched air and ground attacks into Sinai and the Gaza Strip.
  - A. The Israelis say they were reacting to a movement of Egyptian air and armored forces "toward" Israel, which the Israelis interpreted as an attack.
    1. Specifically, they say that the Egyptian 4th Armored Division had moved forward to the Kuntilla area of southeastern Sinai, in preparation for a drive across the Negev in southern Israel, and that a force of division strength, comprising infantry and armored elements, was also moved forward in that area for the same purpose.
    2. Israeli armored forces, according to Israel's account, moved out to engage the menacing Egyptian force, and Israeli aircraft attacked Egyptian airfields.

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[REDACTED]

B. We have no confirmation of this Israeli version, or even that the 4th Armored Division had moved to the Kuntilla area. This tends to support our analysis that the Israelis, anxious to have the initiative, simply attacked without any significant immediate provocation--apart from the generally belligerent Arab posture.

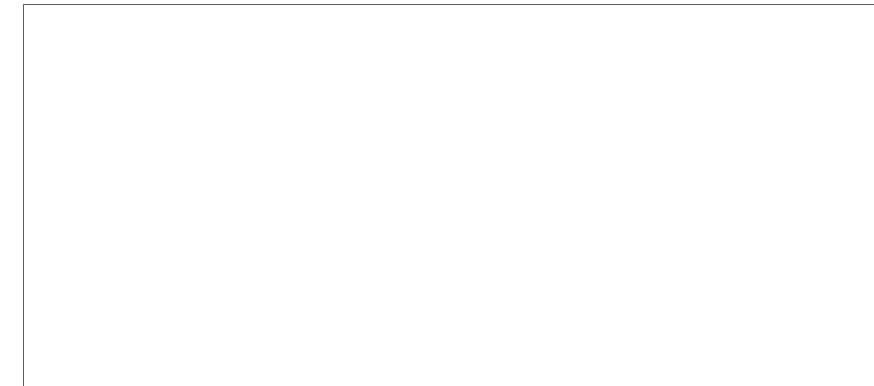
II. The progress of the fighting is not altogether clear.

A. The heaviest ground action apparently has centered around Khan Yunis, a town in the southern part of the Gaza Strip. Israel, at latest report, had captured the town and, thus, presumably has isolated whatever Egyptian and Palestinian troops remain in the northern part of the Strip.

B. Israel's ground attacks into Sinai, south of the Gaza Strip, focused on Abu-Aweigila and Kuntilla. The Egyptians say they repulsed these attacks. This suggests that fighting is still in progress in these areas.

C. Israel's air attacks hit Egyptian airfields in Sinai as well as Cairo, Alexandria, and Port Said. [REDACTED]

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- D. The scorecard on the number of aircraft downed is equally imprecise. Both sides have made claims which are clearly exaggerated.

We had estimated 88 Egyptian jet fighters at the four major fields, and with that much damage, a number of Egyptian aircraft probably were knocked out on the ground. There do not appear to have been many actual air engagements; what air losses Israel has suffered appear to have resulted from antiaircraft fire.

- E. Cairo radio has claimed that 14 Israeli airmen have been captured. The first captured Israeli pilot reportedly said,

[REDACTED]

when interrogated, that he and his unit were ordered to attack Egypt this morning, and a televised recording of this "evidence" is being sent to the UN Security Council.

[REDACTED]

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III. The Israelis also have made bombing attacks against three Syrian airfields.

- A. They have struck Mezze Airfield, near Damascus, repeatedly causing explosions and fire.
- B. A petroleum tank farm north of Damascus reportedly is burning.
- C. One Israeli plane may have been shot down; Syria claims to have captured an Israeli pilot.

IV. Jordan was bombed too. Israeli planes hit Amman, including the radio station and the nearby air-field, and Mafraq Air Base 30 miles to the north-east.

- A. The base at Mafraq was set afire, and most of Jordan's subsonic Hawker Hunter jets apparently were destroyed, although the King has informed us that some were lost in air battles with Israel's supersonic Mirages.
- B. King Husayn, in fact, has told us privately that his air force has been wiped out and that the radar station at Ajlun was destroyed.
- C. The Jordanians are bitter at Syria and Iraq for having failed to provide air support.
- D. Despite attempts to arrange a cease-fire in the ground fighting in Jerusalem, intermittent fighting apparently continues. Jordanian forces captured the Israeli enclave on Mt. Scopus and also occupied the UN Truce Supervision Organization's headquarters area to the south, but were later dislodged by the Israelis. Mt. Scopus and the UN Headquarters area are commanding heights which afford the occupant a tactical advantage.

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*Arab 245,000*  
*Jordan 280,000*

## MILITARY

### Egyptian

Regular Ground Forces	175,000
Total Mobilization + 15 Days	200,000
Air - Fighters	310
Bombers	72

### Syrian Military

Regular Ground Forces	60,000
Total Mobilization + 15 Days	79,800
Air - Fighters	58
Bombers	4

### Jordan

Regular Ground Forces	49,500
Total Mobilization + 15 Days	62,000
Air - Fighters	18
Bombers	18

### Israel

Regular Ground Forces	50,000
Total Mobilization + 15 Days	280,000
Air - Fighters	260
Bombers	2

*24,000*

*Saudi Arabian*

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